



Maui laboratory receives support for space surveillance

by Rich Garcia, Directed Energy Directorate

KIRTLAND AFB, N.M. — A contract, which could reach \$86.5 million, was awarded recently by the Directed Energy Directorate of the Air Force Research Laboratory to the Boeing Company, Rocketdyne Technical Services, in Maui, Hawaii.

The contract allows the Air Force to get support from the contractor over a five-year period and establishes a ceiling of \$86.5 million for that support.

Specifically, Boeing will conduct research and development activities for the Research Laboratory at the Maui Space Surveillance System, a site atop a 10,000-foot-high mountain in Maui, Hawaii. The contractor will also operate and maintain the facilities there, which include several telescopes used for research purposes and to collect images and data on satellites passing overhead. The complex houses the largest telescope in the Department of Defense — the 3.67-meter Advanced Electro-Optical System.

Approximately 120 contractor employees will work with 20 Air Force military and civilian employees to run the day-to-day operations. This includes the telescopes and their support equipment, research projects, safety, security and routine housekeeping.

On the site, low-light-level cameras and three smaller telescopes (two 1-meter aperture and one .4-meter aperture systems) support Air Force Space Command in detecting, tracking and identifying space objects. Also used are four electro-optical telescopes (a twin 1.2 meter, a 1.6 meter, and a .8 meter), timing systems, acquisition cameras, laser systems and communications equipment.

Although some operations are conducted during the day, the site operates primarily at night. The Air Force selected this high-mountain location because its isolation provides excellent viewing operations. @